

AN ARABIST'S GUIDE TO EGYPTIAN COLLOQUIAL

by

Daniel Pipes

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To Margaret Sears

### Preface

Arriving in Cairo for the first time in June 1971, I had two years of Arabic study to my credit, yet I was unable to say anything or understand more than a word here and there. Like so many other students of modern Written Arabic, I was unprepared to deal with the language that Arabs actually speak. To master the Cairene dialect, I acquired a battery of grammars and attended classes at the Center for Arabic Study Abroad. Despite excellent teachers, I found the task a frustrating one, for all the manuals assumed no knowledge at all of Arabic and started at the beginning. But I already knew Written Arabic and needed only to learn what adjustments to make to speak the Egyptian colloquial.

How sensible it would be, I often reflected, if someone prepared a handbook of Egyptian colloquial for those of us already trained in Written Arabic. So often did I bemoan the absence of such a book that my friends eventually insisted that I undertake the project myself. I wrote the book during my final months in Cairo, in the spring of 1973. The grammar then languished for eight years in a back drawer, as I turned my attention to other matters.

Then Dr. James A. Snow of the Foreign Service Institute at the Department of State expressed an interest in publishing this study; he also agreed to provide some editorial advice and assistance. Then, when no one else was available to prepare the manuscript for publication, he did this too. For his many efforts, I am very grateful and am much in his debt. Any errors that may yet remain are, of course, my responsibility alone.

For purposes of brevity, I assume a thorough knowledge of Written Arabic and only point out the ways in which the dialect differs; to do otherwise would defeat the purpose of this manual. "Egyptian" is shorthand for Egyptian colloquial Arabic as spoken in Cairo by persons with some education.

D.P.

*Chicago*

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CHAPTER ONE

PRONUNCIATION

1. Consonants

Arabic English Comments

ʾ (1) when beginning a word it is not pronounced

(2) in the middle of a word it is pronounced as a glottal stop only before a long vowel, C'VV or V'VV (but not VV'VV, see below)

<u>a</u>	القرآن	<u>al-qur'aan</u>	'Koran'
<u>u</u>	رؤوس	<u>ru'uus</u>	'heads'

In the cases V'C or V'V the glottal stop drops out and lengthens the preceeding vowel.

<u>a</u>	رأس	<u>ra's</u>	راس	<u>raas</u>	'head'
<u>i</u>	بئر	<u>bi'r</u>	ببر	<u>biir</u>	'well'
<u>u</u>	مؤمن	<u>mu'min</u>	مومى	<u>muumin</u>	'believer'

Following a long vowel (VV'V or VV'VV) the glottal stop changes to ي ya or occasionally to و waw.

<u>a</u>	قراءة	<u>qaraa'a</u>	قراءة	<u>qaraaya</u>	'reading'
<u>i</u>	عائز	<u>9aa'iz</u>	عابر	<u>9aayiz</u>	'wants'
			عاوز	<u>9aawiz</u>	

(3) at the end of a word the glottal stop drops out

دواء	<u>dawaa'</u>	دوا	<u>dawa</u>	'medicine'
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ب	<u>b</u>	
ت	<u>t</u>	
ث	<u>t, s</u>	the pronunciation is not predictably <u>t</u> or <u>s</u>
ج	<u>q</u>	<u>q</u> as in 'good', although in upper Egypt it is like <u>j</u> in 'jam'
ح	<u>H</u>	
خ	<u>x</u>	
د	<u>d</u>	
ذ	<u>d, z</u>	the pronunciation is not predictably <u>d</u> or <u>z</u>
ر	<u>r</u>	
ز	<u>z</u>	
س	<u>s</u>	
ش	<u>š</u>	
ص	<u>š</u>	
ض	<u>q, z, z</u>	the pronunciation is not predictable
ط	<u>t</u>	
ظ	<u>z, z, q</u>	the pronunciation is not predictable
ع	<u>g</u>	
غ	<u>g</u>	
ق	<u>q</u>	generally pronounced as a glottal stop, though some words retain the literary <u>qaf</u> sound; when a word must be pronounced with the <u>qaf</u> sound, it will be transliterated with a dot above the <u>qaf</u> , as in the following:

القرآن	<u>al-qur'aan</u>	'the Koran'
القاهرة	<u>al-qaahira</u>	'Cairo'
قاموس	<u>qamuus</u>	'dictionary'
قسم	<u>qism</u>	'section'
قطعة	<u>qit9a</u>	'piece'
قانون	<u>qanuun</u>	'law'

ك	<u>k</u>
ل	<u>l</u>
م	<u>m</u>
ن	<u>n</u>

ه h  
و w  
ي y

Occasionally a letter is pronounced differently with different meanings:

ثاني	<u>taani</u>	'second' (as in 'first, second')
ثانية	<u>saniya</u>	'second' (time unit)
قوي	<u>qawi</u>	'strong'
قوى	<u>qawi</u>	'much, a lot'

## 2. Vowels

### A. Short Vowels

أ a or e when the sound is like the a in 'woman' it may be written e.

احمد 'aHmed 'Ahmad'

إ i  
أ u

### B. Long Vowels

أ aa  
ي ii  
و uu

Note: Long vowels are sometimes pronounced as short vowels. See section 3.C for details.

C. Diphthongs

... ay or e the diphthong sound occasionally remains

ايوه	<u>'aywa</u>	'yes'
كويس	<u>kwayyis</u>	'good'

though it usually becomes ee

دبل	<u>deel</u>	'tail'
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... aw, oo this may also remain a diphthong

موضوع	<u>mawduu9</u>	'subject'
فوضى	<u>fawda</u>	'chaos'
لو	<u>law</u>	'if'

though it usually changes to oo

مور	<u>mooz</u>	'bananas'
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The other diphthong combinations rarely occur and when they do they remain diphthongized.

3. Vowel Patterns and Syllable Shifts

Egyptian is characterized by a sequence of rather complex vowel shifts which evolved out of speaking habits. Although difficult to learn at first, they do make the language flow much more smoothly than does the literary, and they are predictable.

### A. The Phonetic 'i'

An i is added between the second and third consonants of a cluster, whether in a single word or two.

one word	بعدها	<u>ba9d-i-ma</u>	'after'
two words	ست كويسة	<u>sitt-i-kwayyisa</u>	'a good woman'

### B. Ellision of Short Vowels

(1) The initial short vowel of a word drops when the preceding word ends in a vowel or there is a preceding phonetic i.

preceding word	كرسي البنت	<u>kursi-l-bint</u>	'the girl's chair'
phonetic <u>i</u>	بعد اغسطس	<u>ba9d-i-yustus</u>	'after August'

Note: i and u fall out much more frequently than does a. This rule only governs words beginning with short open syllables.

(2) The ~~final~~ <sup>of the last syllable</sup> vowel is elided when a suffix with an initial vowel is added.

verb	لبس ، لبسوا	<u>libis</u> , <u>libsu</u>	'he, they dress'
participle	عارف ، عارفة	<u>9aarif</u> , <u>9arfa</u>	'he, she knows'
adjective	كامل ، كاملة	<u>kaamil</u> , <u>kamla</u>	'complete' (m, f)
noun	كاتب ، كاتبين	<u>kaatib</u> , <u>katbiin</u>	'writer, writers'

(3) Unstressed short a and u are sometimes pronounced as i. This is regularly the case with the feminine noun ending in a construct phrase (i9aafa):

عربة الدكتور	<u>9arabiyyit-id-doktuur</u>	'the doctor's car'
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C. Long Vowels

Long vowels shorten as follows:

aa becomes a  
ee and ii become i  
oo and uu become u

These changes take place:

(1) before two consonants:

كاتب , كاتبين      kaatib, katbiin      'writer, writers'

(2) when unstressed (see section 4 for rules). This means that normally there can only be one long vowel in a word.

صاحب , صاحبة      ṣaāHib, ṣaHībna      'friend, her friend'

(3) at the end of words (as in Written Arabic)

قاضي      qaāḍi      'judge'  
 طلبوا      ṭalabu      'they asked'

4. Stress

Stress in Egyptian Arabic is always on one of the last three syllables. Long vowels always receive the stress.

A. The Penultimate Syllable

The penultimate (next-to-last) syllable usually receives the stress.

عربة	<u>9arabíyya</u>	'car'
اولا	<u>'awwálan</u>	'at first'

### B. The Antepenultimate Syllable

The antepenultimate (second before last) syllable receives the stress if there are no long vowels or consonant clusters in the word.

طلبه	<u>ṭālabu</u>	'he asked <sup>for</sup> him'
اعتقده	<u>a9tāqidu</u>	'I consider him'

'She' in the perfect tense does not follow this rule:

طلبت	<u>ṭalabítu</u>	'she asked him'
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### C. The Final Syllable

The final syllable receives the stress if it has a long vowel in a closed syllable or if it ends in two consonants.

long vowel	اعلان	<u>'i9laán</u>	'announcement'
two consonants	لست	<u>libíst</u>	'I got dressed'

In exceptional cases, a word has two long vowels, both of which are stressed:

خداروات	<u>xudaárawaát</u>	'vegetables'
مخابرات	<u>muxaâbaraát</u>	'intelligence (services)'

## 5. Other Changes

### A. Word Order

Egyptian word order resembles that in English. In Written Arabic the subject, if expressed, precedes the verb.

Written	جهر الطباخ الاكل	<u>jahhaz at-ṭabbaax al-'akl</u>
Egyptian	الطباخ جهر الاكل	<u>at-ṭabbaax gahhiz al-'akl</u>
'The cook prepared the food'		

## B. Case Endings

Egyptian drops almost all case endings on nouns and other parts of speech. Exceptions include:

### (1) Nouns

Case endings survive in occasional instances, especially in fixed expressions:

الحمد لله	<u>al-Hamdu li-llaah</u>	'Praise God!'
والله	<u>wa-llaahi</u>	'By God!'
بإذن الله	<u>bi-izni-llaah</u>	'By God's permission'
الله اكبر	<u>allaahu 'akbar</u>	'God is most great'
السلام عليكم	<u>as-salaamu 9aleekum</u>	'Peace be upon you'

### (2) Adverbs

A few adverbs retain the accusative ending:

حالا	<u>Haalan</u>	'presently'
ابدا	<u>abadan</u>	'never, not at all'
مثلا	<u>masalan</u>	'for example'
اهلا وسهلا	<u>ahlan wa-sahlan</u>	'welcome'
حقبة	<u>Haqiqatan</u>	'really'
فورا	<u>fawran</u>	'immediately'
مرارا	<u>maraaran</u>	'time after time'
هنشا	<u>hanii'an</u>	'bon appetit'
مرحبا	<u>marHaban</u>	'greetings, welcome'

## CHAPTER TWO

NOUNS6. Gender

The genders of nouns in written Arabic remain almost unchanged in Egyptian, with the following exceptions:

(1) ماء maa' 'water' changes to مية mayya in Egyptian and is treated as feminine.

(2) other nouns ending in ا are <sup>sometimes</sup> treated as feminine, such as:

مستشفى      mustašfa      'hospital'

Note: when in the construct state, masculine nouns ending in alif-maqṣuura often have a t sound added to make them conform to the feminine construct pattern (see section 8.(1)):

مستشفى البلد      mustašfat al-balad      'the town hospital'  
منتهى الجمالة      muntahat ag-gamaala      'extremely beautiful'

(3) various other nouns.

مركب      markib      'boat'  
بطن      baṭin      'stomach'



## 7. Number

### A. The Dual

The dual, pronounced -een, is used except as follows:

(1) when a noun takes the sound masculine plural, so as not to confuse the dual and the plural:

اثنين مدرسين itneen mudarrisiin 'two teachers'

(2) with masculine nouns ending in -i -a:

اثنين مستشفيات itneen mustašfiyaat 'two hospitals'

اثنين مباني itneen mabaani 'two buildings'

(3) with measures and money and most foreign loan words:

اثنين كيلو itneen kiilo 'two kilos'

اثنين جنيه itneen gineeh 'two pounds'

اثنين راديو itneen radyu 'two radios'

Note one exception to this latter rule:

فريش qirseen 'two piasters'

### B. Sound Plurals

Masculine sound plurals take an unchanging -iin suffix and feminine sound plurals take -aat. This feminine ending is also added to the following masculine nouns:

(1) some titles and positions:

اسطى ، اسطوات uṣṭa, uṣṭawaat 'skilled worker'

اب ، ابهات ab, abahaat 'father'

اح ، اخوات ax, ixwaat 'brother'

بلدى ، بلديات baladi, baladiyaat 'fellow villager'

(2) loan words, both classical and modern:

منار ، منارات	<u>fanaar</u> , <u>fanaraat</u>	'lighthouse'
كازينو ، كازينوهات	<u>kaziinu</u> , <u>kazinuhaat</u>	'cafe, nightclub'
جنيه ، جنيهات	<u>gineh</u> , <u>ginehaat</u>	'pound'

(3) other masculine nouns:

حوا ، حوايات	<u>gawaab</u> , <u>gawabaat</u>	'letter'
يمين ، يمينات	<u>yamiin</u> , <u>yaminaat</u>	'oath'
خضار ، خضاروات	<u>xuḍaar</u> , <u>xuḍaarawaat</u>	'vegetable'

### C. Broken Plurals

For words that have more than one broken plural, the one (or more) most commonly used in Egyptian have to be learned.

### 8. Possession

Possession is expressed in two ways:

(1) by the construct phrase ('iḍaafa):

باب المنزل	<u>baab al-manzil</u>	'the house door'
قلم خالتي	<u>qalam xalti</u>	'the pen of my aunt'
عاصمة البلد	<u>ḡaaṣimit al-balad</u>	'the country's capital'
ماء النيل	<u>mayyit an-niil</u>	'water of the Nile'

The feminine -it ending is pronounced in the construct state; otherwise the -t sound is dropped.

عاصمة	<u>ḡaaṣiṣma</u>	'capital'
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(2) by the term باع bitaa9 (feminine بتاعة bitaa9a, plural بتوع bituu9), related to the Written term تاع taabi9 'belonging to'.

شاع bitaa9 indicates possession between two nouns.

البيت شاع الرجل al-beet bitaa9 ar-raagil  
'the house of (belonging to) the man'

Both nouns must be definite. The feminine form is pronounced شاعه bitaa9t and is also used for plurals:

المنزلة بيتاعتي al-manzila bita9ti 'my house'

الكتب شاعة المكتبة ak-kutub bita9t al-maktaba  
'the library books'

شوع bituu9 can be used with any definite plural, animate or not, including duals:

الكتب شوع المكتبة ak-kutub bituu9 al-maktaba  
'the library books'

الزوجات شوعه az-zogaat bituu9u 'his wives'

الجورين شوعها ag-gozeen bitu9ha  
'her two husbands'

شاع bitaa9 indicates a less precise connection than does the construct phrase. A family relationship is normally indicated with the construct, a casual acquaintance with bitaa9, though usage on this matter varies considerably. One may feel safe using bitaa9 often and in any context.

For other ways of expression possession, see section 26.

## 9. Special Egyptian Noun Forms

(1) the Turkish حي - -gi suffix denotes professions:

جرمة . جزمحي	<u>gezma</u> , <u>gezmagi</u>	'shoe, shoemaker'
سفرة . سفرحي	<u>sufra</u> , <u>sufragi</u>	'dinner table, waiter'
سطح . سطححي	<u>bosta</u> , <u>bustagi</u>	'mail, postman'
مكوى . مكويحي	<u>makwa</u> , <u>makwagi</u>	'ironing store, laundryman'

(2) The suffix -ااني -aani makes nouns out of adjectives.

آخر . اخرااني	<u>'aaxir</u> , <u>'axiraani</u>	'last, the last one'
تحت . تحتاني	<u>taHt</u> , <u>taHtaani</u>	'below, the one below'

## CHAPTER THREE

## ADJECTIVES

10. Modifying Adjectives

Modifying adjectives are used as in Written Arabic, including ordinal numbers and the comparative and superlative forms. There is no dual, however; plurals are used instead:

راجلين كويسين	<u>ragleen kwayyisiin</u>	'two good men'
فلاحين طوال	<u>fellaHeen tuwwaal</u>	'two tall peasants'
اوصين وسخه	<u>'oqateen wisxa</u>	'two dirty rooms'

11. Cardinal Numbers

As in Written Arabic, plurals of nouns are used only with the numbers three to ten, except for an additional usage with the number two.

A. 'One'

As in Written Arabic, 'one' is an adjective:

masc.	ساي واحد	<u>šay waaHid</u>	'one (cup of) tea'
fem.	نسخة واحدة	<u>nusxa waHda</u>	'one copy'

Note the irregularities of ordering, though:

واحد شاي	<u>waHid šay</u>	'one tea (please)'
واحد قهوة	<u>waHid qahwa</u>	'one coffee (please)'

B. 'Two'

Always اثنى عشر itneen, and precedes the noun. For usage see section 7.A.

C. Three to Ten

(1) In isolation the masculine (or 'long form') is used:

ثلاثة	<u>talaata</u>	'three'
اربعة	<u>'arba9a</u>	'four'
خمسة	<u>xamsa</u>	'five'
سنة	<u>sitta</u>	'six'
سبعة	<u>sab9a</u>	'seven'
ثمانية	<u>tamanya</u>	'eight'
تسعة	<u>tis9a</u>	'nine'
عشرة	<u>9ašara</u>	'ten'

(2) When a plural noun immediately follows, the feminine (or 'short form') is used:

ثلاث	<u>talat</u>	'three'
اربع	<u>'arba9</u>	'four'
خمس	<u>xamas</u>	'five'
ست	<u>sitt</u>	'six'
سبع	<u>saba9</u>	'seven'
ثمان	<u>taman</u>	'eight'
تسع	<u>tisa9</u>	'nine'
عشر	<u>9ašar</u>	'ten'

For example:

اربع كتب	<u>'arba9 kutub</u>	'four books'
تسع سنين	<u>tisa9 siniin</u>	'nine years'

Masculine plural nouns with an initial glottal stop usually retain the Written Arabic gender polarization and the final *ʔ* of the number is pronounced:

ثلاثة آلاف	<u>talatt alaaf</u>	'three thousand'
سبعة ايام	<u>sab9at ayaam</u>	'seven days'
اربعة اشهر	<u>arba9t ušhur</u>	'four months'
سته اصناف	<u>sittit ašnaaf</u>	'six kinds'

but:

خمسة اسابيع	<u>xamas asabii9</u>	'five weeks'
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Measures, money and orders for common goods are left in the singular; the isolation (or long) form is used with them:

خمسة تريفه	<u>xamsa ta9riifa</u>	'five tarifas'
سبعة جنيه	<u>tis9a gineh</u>	'nine pounds'
اربعة جرام	<u>'arba9a graam</u>	'four grams'
ثمانية عصير ليمون	<u>tamanya 9ašiiir</u>	'eight lemonades
	<u>limuun</u>	(please)'

#### D. Teens

The feminine form is used and the *ʔ* 9ayn in عشر 9ašar drops out:

حداشر	<u>Hidaašer</u>	'eleven'
اثناشر	<u>itnaašer</u>	'twelve'
ثلاثاشر	<u>talattaašer</u>	'thirteen'
اربعاشر	<u>'arba9taašer</u>	'fourteen'
خمستاشر	<u>xamastaašer</u>	'fifteen'
ستعاشر	<u>sittaašer</u>	'sixteen'
سبعاشر	<u>saba9taašer</u>	'seventeen'
ثماناشر	<u>tamantaašer</u>	'eighteen'
تسعاشر	<u>tisa9taašer</u>	'nineteen'

For example:

اثنا عشر كرسي	<u>itnaašer kursi</u>	'twelve chairs'
سبعة عشر مبنى	<u>sab9ataašer mabna</u>	'17 buildings'

Note that in ثلاثة عشر talattaašer both the ت and the ل are pronounced t.

### E. Tens

Multiples of ten end in س - -iin, like the sound masculine plurals:

عشرين	<u>9ašriin</u>	'twenty'
ثلاثين	<u>talatiin</u>	'thirty'
اربعين	<u>arba9iin</u>	'forty'
خمسين	<u>xamsiin</u>	'fifty'
ستين	<u>sittiin</u>	'sixty'
سبعين	<u>sab9iin</u>	'seventy'
ثمانين	<u>tamaniin</u>	'eighty'
تسعين	<u>tis9iin</u>	'ninety'

As in written Arabic, units precede tens:

اربعة وثمانين صورة	<u>arba9a wa-tamaniin šuura</u>	
		'eighty four pictures'

### F. Hundreds

Hundreds have two pronunciations:

(1) in isolation:

مئة	<u>miyya</u>	'hundred'
مئتين	<u>miteen</u>	'200'
ثلاثمائة	<u>tultumiyya</u>	'300'



ربعميه	<u>rub9umiyya</u>	'400'
خمسميه	<u>xumsumiyya</u>	'500'
ستميه	<u>suttumiyya</u>	'600'
سبعه	<u>sub9umiyya</u>	'700'
ثمانيه	<u>tumnumiyya</u>	'800'
تسعويه	<u>tus9umiyya</u>	'900'

For example:

فيه كم جن؟ خمسميه . fiih kam ginn? xumsumiyya.  
'How many jinns are there? 500.'

(2) when followed by a singular noun, ميه is pronounced miit.

ميه مره miit marra 'a hundred times'

فيه خمسميه جن fiih xumsumiit ginn  
'There are 500 jinns'

#### G. Thousands, Millions, etc.

As in Written Arabic, الف 'alf and مليون milyuun are treated as ordinary nouns:

الف	<u>'alf</u>	1000
الفين	<u>'alfeen</u>	2000
ثلاثه آلاف	<u>talatt alaaf</u>	3000
مليون	<u>milyuun</u>	'million'
خمس ملايين	<u>xamas malayiin</u>	'five million'

#### H. Fractions

(1) 'a half' is نص nuṣṣ.

(2) 'a third' has the pattern fi9l; 'a fourth' to 'a tenth' follows the pattern fu9l:

ثالث	<u>tilt</u>	'a third'
رابع	<u>rub9</u>	'a fourth'
خمس	<u>xums</u>	'a fifth'
ست	<u>sutt</u>	'a sixth'
سبع	<u>sub9</u>	'a seventh'
ثمان	<u>tumn</u>	'an eighth'
تسع	<u>tus9</u>	'a ninth'
عشر	<u>9uśr</u>	'a tenth'

(3) for fractions of 'an eleventh', etc., the pattern 'one in eleven' is used (this is the same pattern for percentages):

واحد في الحداشر	<u>waaHid fi-l-Hidaaśar</u>	one-eleventh
تسعين في المئة	<u>tis9iin fi-l-miyya</u>	90 per cent

## 12. The Definite Article

As in Written Arabic except that Egyptian has two additional sun letters (i.e., two letters that assimilate to the J lam):

ج giim and ك kaf:

الجمال	<u>ag-gamal</u>	'the camel'
الكتاب	<u>ak-kitaab</u>	'the book'

## CHAPTER FOUR

PRONOUNS13. Isolated Personal Pronouns

انا	<u>ana</u>	I	احنا	<u>iHna</u>	we
انت	<u>inta</u>	you <sup>m</sup>	انتو	<u>intu</u>	you <sup>pl</sup>
انت	<u>inti</u>	you <sup>f</sup>			
هو	<u>huwwa</u>	he	هم	<u>humma</u>	they
هي	<u>hiyya</u>	she			

14. Pronominal Suffixes

ي	- <u>i</u> ( <u>ya</u> )	my; me	نا	- <u>na</u>	our; us
سي	- <u>ni</u>				
ك	-( <u>a</u> ) <u>k</u>	your <sup>m</sup> ; you <sup>m</sup>	كو	-( <u>u</u> ) <u>ku</u>	your <sup>pl</sup> ; you <sup>pl</sup>
ك	-( <u>i</u> ) <u>k</u>	your <sup>f</sup> ; you <sup>f</sup>			
ه	- <u>u</u> ( <u>h</u> )	his; him	هم	-( <u>u</u> ) <u>hum</u>	their; them
ها	-( <u>a</u> ) <u>ha</u>	her			

The 3rd person plural suffix does not change from u to i after an i or a diphthong as it does in Written Arabic:

بهم	<u>bi<u>i</u>hum</u>	'with them'
عليهم	<u>9alee<u>i</u>hum</u>	'on them'

## A. As Possessive Pronouns

(1) After -VVC and -VVCV. Habiib 'dear friend<sup>m</sup>' and Habiiba 'dear friend<sup>f</sup>'

حبيبي Habiib-i حبيينا Habib-na

حبيبك Habiib-ak حبيكو Habib-ku  
حبيتك Habiib-ik

حبيته Habiib-u حبيهم Habib-hum  
حبيتها Habib-ha

حبيبي Habibt-i حبيينا Habibit-na

حبيبك Habibt-ak حبيتكو Habibit-ku  
حبيتك Habibt-ik

حبيته Habibt-u حبيتهم Habibit-hum  
حبيتها Habibit-ha

(2) After -CC and -CCV. كلب *kalb* 'dog<sup>m</sup>', and كلبة *kalba* 'dog<sup>f</sup>',

كلبي	<u><i>kalb-i</i></u>	كلينا	<u><i>kalb-i-na</i></u>
كلبك	<u><i>kalb-ak</i></u>	كلبكوا	<u><i>kalb-u-ku</i></u>
كلبك	<u><i>kalb-ik</i></u>		
كلبه	<u><i>kalb-u</i></u>	كلبهم	<u><i>kalb-u-hum</i></u>
كلبها	<u><i>kalb-a-ha</i></u>		
كلبيتي	<u><i>kalbit-i</i></u>	كلبيتنا	<u><i>kalbit-na</i></u>
كلبتك	<u><i>kalbit-ak</i></u>	كلبتكوا	<u><i>kalbit-ku</i></u>
كلبتك	<u><i>kalbit-ik</i></u>		
كلبته	<u><i>kalbit-u</i></u>	كلبتهم	<u><i>kalbit-hum</i></u>
كلبتها	<u><i>kalbit-ha</i></u>		

(3) After -CVC. صاحب *ṣaaHib* 'friend; owner of'

صاحبي	<u><i>ṣaHb-i</i></u>	صاحبنا	<u><i>ṣaHib-na</i></u>
صاحبك	<u><i>ṣaHb-ak</i></u>	صاحبكوا	<u><i>ṣaHib-ku</i></u>
صاحبك	<u><i>ṣaHb-ik</i></u>		
صاحبه	<u><i>ṣaHb-u</i></u>	صاحبهم	<u><i>ṣaHib-hum</i></u>
صاحبها	<u><i>ṣaHib-ha</i></u>		

(4) After a vowel. The final vowel lengthens before the suffix. Note that after a vowel the suffix meaning 'my' is -ya.

دوا dawa 'medicine'

دواي	<u>dawaa-ya</u>	دوانا	<u>dawaa-na</u>
دواك	<u>dawaa-k</u>	دواكو	<u>dawaa-ku</u>
دواك	<u>dawaa-ki</u>		
دواه	<u>dawaa-h</u>	دواهم	<u>dawaa-hum</u>
دواها	<u>dawaa-ha</u>		

(5) With the dual. Following the rules of Written Arabic, the n of the dual ending drops out before a pronoun suffix.  
والدين walideen '(two) parents'

والدين	<u>walidee-ya</u>	والدينا	<u>walidee-na</u>
والديك	<u>walidee-k</u>	والديكو	<u>walidee-ku</u>
والديك	<u>walidee-ki</u>		
والديه	<u>walidee-h</u>	والديهم	<u>walidee-hum</u>
والديها	<u>walidee-ha</u>		

The 'idaafa' form with the dual is rarely used, mostly with parts of the body. More commonly, bitaa9 is employed:

السيفين <sup>س</sup>توعي as-seefeen bituu9i  
'two swords belonging to me'

(6) With the masculine sound plural. Contrary to Written Arabic rules, the n of the plural ending remains and the

pronoun suffixes are added to it. سَوَابِين bawwabiin 'doormen'

سَوَابِي	<u>bawwabiin-i</u>	سَوَابِيَا	<u>bawwabin-na</u>
سَوَابِيَكْ	<u>bawwabiin-ak</u>	سَوَابِيِنَكُو	<u>bawwabin-ku</u>
سَوَابِيَكْ	<u>bawwabiin-ik</u>		
سَوَابِيِهْ	<u>bawwabiin-u</u>	سَوَابِيِنِهِمْ	<u>bawwabin-hum</u>
سَوَابِيَهَا	<u>bawwabin-ha</u>		

Again, سَاع bitaa9 is more common:

البوابين ستوع المبنى al-bawwabiin bituu9 al-mabna  
'the doormen of the building'

(7) With the Feminine Sound Plural. As in (6) above.

عَرَابِيَا 9arabiyat-na 'our cars'

## B. As Direct Objects of Prepositions

The suffixes and rules are as in A. above, with some exceptions. In several cases, the vowel i lengthens; in another, the consonant n doubles:

(1) - bi- 'with, by, in'

سِي	<u>biiya</u>	بِنَا	<u>biina</u>
بِكْ	<u>biik</u>	بِكُو . بَكْم	<u>bjiku(m)</u>
بِكْ	<u>biiki</u>		
بِهْ	<u>biih</u>	بِيْهِمْ	<u>biihum</u>
بِيْهَا	<u>biiha</u>		

(2) في fii 'in'

في	<u>fiiya</u>	فينا	<u>fiina</u>
مك	<u>fiik</u>	فكو ، فيكم	<u>fiiku(m)</u>
فك	<u>fiiki</u>		
فيه	<u>fiih</u>	فهم	<u>fiihum</u>
فيها	<u>fiiha</u>		

(3) لـ li- 'to'

لـ	<u>liiya</u>	لنا	<u>lina, liina</u>
لك	<u>lik, lak, liik</u>	لكو ، لكم	<u>luku(m), liiku(m)</u>
لك	<u>lik, liki, liiki</u>		
له	<u>liih, luh</u>	لهم →	<u>liihum, luhum</u>
لها	<u>laha, liha, liiha</u>		

(4) من min 'from'

مي	<u>minni</u>	منا	<u>minnina, minna</u>
مك	<u>minnak</u>	منكو ، منكم	<u>minku(m), minnuku(m)</u>
مك	<u>minnik</u>		
مه	<u>minnuh</u>	مهم	<u>minhum, minnuhum</u>
منها	<u>minnaha, minha</u>		

C. As Direct Objects of Verbs

Again, the suffixes and rules remain the same, except for the 'me' (first person singular) which changes to ني -ni.



(1) After -VC:

شاف šaaf 'he saw'      شافني šaf-ni 'he saw me'

(2) After -CC:

شفت šuft 'you saw'      شفتني šuft-i-ni 'you saw me'

(3) After -CVC:

شافت šafit 'she saw'      شافيني šafit-ni 'she saw me'

(4) After a vowel:

شافوا šaafu 'they saw'      شافوني šafuu-ni 'they saw me'

## 15. Demonstrative Pronouns

### A.

دا da 'this<sup>m</sup>, that<sup>m</sup>,  
دي di 'this<sup>f</sup>, that<sup>f</sup>,      دول دي dol, di 'these, those'

While the dual and the plural of animate masculine nouns always take دول dol, other plurals take either دي di or دول dol.

الفلاح دا	<u>al-fellaaH da</u>	'this peasant man'
العلاحة دي	<u>al-fellaaHa di</u>	'this peasant woman'
العلاحين دول	<u>al-fellaHeen dol</u>	'these two peasant men'
العلاحين دول	<u>al-fellaHiin dol</u>	'these peasant men'
العلاحيين دي	<u>al-fellaHateen di</u>	'these two peasant women'
العلاحيات دي	<u>al-fellaHaat di</u>	'these peasant women'
العلاحيات دول	<u>al-fellaHaat dol</u>	'these peasant women'

The demonstrative follows the noun, in contrast to Written Arabic.

In a few cases, the demonstrative is considered part of the word for purposes of stress:

الليلة دي	<u>al-lelaā di</u>	'tonight'
اليوم دا	<u>en-nehaār da</u>	'today'
السنة دي	<u>as-senaā di</u>	'this year'
المرّة دي	<u>el-marraā di</u>	'this time'

B. Egyptian has a demonstrative not found in Written Arabic:

أهو	<u>'ahū</u> (m.)
أهي	<u>'ahī</u> (f.)
أهم	<u>'ahūm</u> (pl.)

Stress goes on the second vowel, although it is short, a unique pattern in Egyptian. أهو 'ahu means 'here it is' or 'here is ...' and precedes the noun:

فين الحموسة؟ أهي feen ag-gamuusa? 'ahi!  
'Where is the water buffalo? Here (it is)!'

أهم الخواجات 'ahum al-xawagaat  
'Here are the foreigners!'

## 16. Relative Particles

A. There is only one relative pronoun, اللي illi 'that, that which', corresponding to the Written Arabic الذي alladhī, and like it, used only with definite antecedents. It is sometimes omitted, as in English.

عاورك اللي تحبلي 9awizha illi tigibni  
'I want whatever you bring me.'

صبتما لي 'ana 9aawiz al-hedaya (illi) gibtini  
'I want the present (that) you brought me.'

هو عاوز الهداية اللي اشتريتها *huwwa 9aawiz al-Hedaya (illi) štareetu*  
'He wants the present (that) I bought.'

B. The relative particle *ma* forms conjunctions.

بعدما	<i>ba9d-i-ma</i>	'after'
ري ما	<i>zayy-i-ma</i>	'so as'
طال ما	<i>taal-i-ma</i>	'as long as'
قبل ما	<i>qabl-i-ma</i>	'before'
كلما	<i>kull-i-ma</i>	'all that'
وعندما	<i>wagt-i-ma</i>	'when'

C. *man* 'who' is pronounced *miin* in Egyptian. As a relative particle, it is usually replaced by *illi*.

انا اللي عاوز يروح *ana illi 9aawiz yiruuH*  
'I'm the one who wants to go.'

## 17. Interrogative Pronouns

Although identical in function to those in Written Arabic, several have different pronunciation:

(1) *man* 'who?' is replaced by *miin*.

مين دا؟ *miin da?* 'Who's that?'

(2) *maadhaa* 'what?' is replaced by *'eeh*.

أيه دا؟ *eeh da?* 'What's that?'

(3) لماذا limaadhaa 'why?' is replaced by له leeh.

له نفى؟ leeh baqa? 'What for? Why's that?'

(4) كيف kayfa 'how?' is replaced by ازي 'izzayy.

ازك؟ 'izzayyik? 'How are you<sup>f</sup>?'

(5) اين 'ayna 'where?' is replaced by فن feen.

فينك؟ feenak? 'Where have you been?'

## CHAPTER FIVE

## VERBS

## 18. Preliminary Remarks

## A. Notes on Usage

(1) The final short vowels of Written Arabic verbs are dropped in Egyptian:

Written	دفع	<u>dafa9a</u>	'he paid'
Egyptian	دفع	<u>dafa9</u>	'he paid'

(2) Verbs follow the subject.

(3) Pronouns are often used with verbs, although they are, strictly speaking, superfluous. Occasionally they emphasize the doer, but more often, they have no function.

احنا جينا عشان الحفلة	<u>iHna geena 9ašaan al-Hafla</u>	
'We came for the party.'		
انا بحبك	<u>ana baHibbak</u>	'I love you'

## B. Nominal Sentences

Sentences without a verb are common in Egyptian:

اهي العصفورة	<u>ahi al-9ašfuura</u>	
'Here is the bird'		
النهار دا العيد الكبير	<u>en-nahaarda al-9iid ak-kabiir</u>	
'Today is the great holiday'		
انت غبطة	<u>inti 9abiiṭa</u>	'You are stupid'

The invariable مش *miš* 'not' takes the place of ليس *laysa* in negating nominal sentences (see section 34).

العربة دي مش بتاعتي      *al-9arabiyya di miš bita9ti*  
'This car isn't mine'

### C. Participles Used As Verbs

Active participles can functionally replace verbs. They agree in number and gender with the subject. Some active participles are commonly used as verbs in Egyptian while others are never heard. Here are some of the most common ones:

راح <i>raayiH</i>	شاب <i>šaayif</i>	ماشي <i>maaši</i>	مسافر <i>misaafir</i>
جاي <i>gayy</i>	راجع <i>raagi9</i>	راكب <i>raakib</i>	موافق <i>muwaafiq</i>
قاعد <i>qaa9id</i>	وافع <i>waagif</i>	واكل <i>waakil</i>	محتاج <i>miHtaag</i>
نام <i>naayim</i>	جايب <i>gaayib</i>	شارب <i>šaarib</i>	مسرّح <i>mustarayiH</i>
فاهم <i>faahim</i>	واحد <i>waaxud</i>	مروّج <i>mirawwaH</i>	
عاور <i>9aawiz</i>	فاتح <i>faatiH</i>		

### 19. Conjugating Form I

The conjugations change little in Egyptian; the most important difference is the general tendency towards the vowel *i*.

### A. The Perfect Tense

The following suffixes indicate the subject:

I	ت -	<u>-t</u>	we	نا -	<u>-na</u>
you m.	ت -	<u>-t</u>	you pl.	نو -	<u>-tu</u>
you f.	ي -	<u>-ti</u>			
he		--	they	وا -	<u>-u</u>
she	ت -	<u>-it</u>			

(1) Strong roots follow the literary vowel pattern a-a or the peculiarly colloquial i-i. كتب katab 'he wrote' and لبس libis 'he got dressed'.

كتب	<u>katabt</u>	كتبا	<u>katabna</u>
كتب	<u>katabt</u>	كتبو	<u>katabtu</u>
كتبي	<u>katabti</u>		
كتب	<u>katab</u>	كتبوا	<u>katabu</u>
كتبت	<u>katabit</u>		
لبس	<u>libist</u>	لبسنا	<u>libisna</u>
لبس	<u>libist</u>	لبسوا	<u>libistu</u>
لبسي	<u>libisti</u>		
لبس	<u>libis</u>	لبسوا	<u>libsu</u>
لبست	<u>libsit</u>		

(2) Doubled roots are notable for the -ee preceding the suffixes in the first and second persons. حب Habb 'to love'

حب	<u>Habbeet</u>	حبنا	<u>Habbeena</u>
حب	<u>Habbeet</u>	حبو	<u>Habbeetu</u>
حبس	<u>Habbeeti</u>		
حب	<u>Habb</u>	حوا	<u>Habbu</u>
حبس	<u>Habbit</u>		

The -eet ending changes to -it when followed by a pronoun suffix which creates a consonant cluster (as in section 3.C(1)):

حبها	<u>Habbitha</u>	'I loved her.'
حبته	<u>Habbeetu</u>	'I loved him.'

(3) Medial weak roots are unchanged from the Written Arabic, whether the medial root consonant is و w or ي y. شاف šāaf 'to see' and ساب saab 'to leave'.

شعب	<u>šuft</u>	شعبنا	<u>šufna</u>
شعب	<u>šuft</u>	شفتو	<u>šuftu</u>
شفتي	<u>šufti</u>		
ساف	<u>šāaf</u>	ساموا	<u>šāafu</u>
شاف	<u>šāafit</u>		
سب	<u>sibt</u>	سبنا	<u>sibna</u>
سب	<u>sibt</u>	سمو	<u>sibtu</u>
سبي	<u>sibti</u>		
ساب	<u>saab</u>	ساموا	<u>saabu</u>
ساب	<u>saabit</u>		



(4) Final weak roots (including final hamza) follow the patterns of Written Arabic. قرا qara 'to read' and سي nisi 'to forget'.

قريت	<u>qareet</u>	قرينا	<u>qareena</u>
قريت	<u>qareet</u>	قرتو	<u>qareetu</u>
قريت	<u>qareeti</u>		
قرا	<u>qara</u>	فروا	<u>garu</u>
فرت	<u>garit</u>		
نسيت	<u>nisiit</u>	نسينا	<u>nisiina</u>
نسيت	<u>nisiit</u>	نسيتو	<u>nisiitu</u>
نسيت	<u>nisiiti</u>		
نسي	<u>nisi</u>	نسوا (نسوا)	<u>nisu (nisyu)</u>
نسيت (نسيت)	<u>nisit (nisyit)</u>		

#### B. 'The Imperfect Tense

The following prefixes and suffixes indicate the subject:

-ا	<u>a-</u>	-ن	<u>n-</u>
-ت	<u>t-</u>	ت - ... -و	<u>t-...-u</u>
ي - ... -ي	<u>t-...-i</u>		
-ي	<u>y-</u>	و - ... -و	<u>y-...-u</u>
-ت	<u>t-</u>		

(1) Strong roots most commonly take an i-a vowel pattern in the imperfect.

فتح ، يفتح	<u>fatah</u> , <u>yiftaH</u>	'to open'
سأل ، يسأل	<u>sa'al</u> , <u>ysis'al</u>	'to ask'
فهم ، يفهم	<u>fihim</u> , <u>yifham</u>	'to understand'
رجع ، يرجع	<u>rigi9</u> , <u>yirga9</u>	'to return'

Some strong roots with a-a in the perfect take i-i or u-u in the imperfect.

<u>i-i</u>	كتب ، يكتب	<u>katab</u> , <u>yiktib</u>	'to write'
	عمل ، يعمل	<u>9amal</u> , <u>yi9mil</u>	'to do, make'
<u>u-u</u>	قعد ، يقعد	<u>qa9ad</u> , <u>yuq9ud</u>	'to sit'
	دخل ، يدخل	<u>daxal</u> , <u>yudxul</u>	'to enter'
	خرج ، يخرج	<u>xarag</u> , <u>yuxrug</u>	'to leave'
	سكن ، يسكن	<u>sakan</u> , <u>yuskun</u>	'to reside'

And some roots with i-i in the perfect keep the same vowel pattern in the imperfect.

لبس ، يلبس	<u>libis</u> , <u>yilbis</u>	'to get dressed'
كذب ، يكذب	<u>kizib</u> , <u>yikzib</u>	'to tell a lie, lie'
حلف ، يحلف	<u>Hilif</u> , <u>yiHlif</u>	'to swear (an oath)'

Conjugation of virtually all imperfect verbs follows regular patterns. سمع sama9 'to listen'

اسمع	<u>asma9</u>	سمع	<u>nisma9</u>
سمع	<u>tisma9</u>	تسمع	<u>tisma9u</u>
سمعي	<u>tisma9i</u>		
سمع	<u>yisma9</u>	يسمع	<u>yisma9u</u>
نسمع	<u>tisma9</u>		

(2) Doubled roots take an i-i or i-u pattern:

<u>i-i</u>	حب , يحب	<u>Habb</u> , <u>yiHibb</u>	'to love'
	دل , يدل	<u>dall</u> , <u>yidill</u>	'to show'
<u>i-u</u>	مر , يمر	<u>marr</u> , <u>yimurr</u>	'to pass'
	ضر , يضر	<u>ḍarr</u> , <u>yidurr</u>	'to injure'

The conjugation is predictable:

احب	<u>aHibb</u>	نحب	<u>niHibb</u>
تحب	<u>tiHibb</u>	تحبو	<u>tiHibbu</u>
تحبي	<u>tiHibbi</u>		
يحب	<u>yiHibb</u>	يحبو	<u>yiHibbu</u>
يحب	<u>tiHibb</u>		

(3) Medial weak roots take a, i, or u patterns:

<u>a</u>	نام , ينام	<u>naam</u> , <u>yinaam</u>	'to sleep'
<u>i</u>	شمل , يشمل	<u>š<sup>aa</sup>l</u> , <u>yiš<sup>aa</sup>il</u>	'to carry'
<u>u</u>	شاف , يشوف	<u>šaaf</u> , <u>yišuuf</u>	'to see'

Conjugation is regular:

انام	<u>anaam</u>	ننام	<u>ninaam</u>
تنام	<u>tinaam</u>	تنامو	<u>tinaamu</u>
تنامي	<u>tinaami</u>		
ينام	<u>yinaam</u>	ينامو	<u>yinaamu</u>
ينام	<u>tinaam</u>		

(4) Final weak roots follow an i-a or i-i pattern:

قرأ . قرا	<u>qara</u> , <u>yigra</u>	'to read'
ملا . سلا	<u>mala</u> , <u>yimla</u>	'to fill'
نسي . ينسي	<u>nasa</u> , <u>yinsi</u>	'to forget'
جری . بحری	<u>qara</u> , <u>yigri</u>	'to run'

اقرا	<u>aqla</u>	نقرا	<u>nigra</u>
تقرا	<u>tigra</u>	تقرو	<u>tigru</u>
تعري	<u>tigri</u>		
يقرا	<u>yigra</u>	يقرو	<u>yigru</u>
تقرا	<u>tigra</u>		

Egyptian has no equivalent of the jussive or subjunctive of Written Arabic.

### C. The Passive

The passive is usually formed in Egyptian by the use of Form VII verbs, but with -t- in place of the Written Arabic -n-. This colloquial form conjugates like Form VII but expresses the passive of Form I.

Strong	كتب . اكتب	<u>kitib</u> ; <u>itkatab</u>	'to write; be written'
Double	عد . اعد	<u>9idd</u> ; <u>it9add</u>	'to count; be counted'
Medial	باع . اشاع	<u>baa9</u> ; <u>itbaa9</u>	'to sell; be sold'
Final	لقى . اتلقى	<u>laqa</u> ; <u>itlaqa</u>	'to find; be found'

An occasional internal passive is used, as:

يوجد	<u>yuugad</u>	'there is'
يولد	<u>yuulid</u>	'to be born'

D. The Imperative

The imperative is identical to the second person imperfect forms, but without the initial t-.

	Imperfect	Imperative
you <sup>m</sup>	تكتب <u>tiktib</u>	اكتب <u>iktib</u>
you <sup>f</sup>	تدخلی <u>tudxuli</u>	ادخلی <u>udxuli</u>
you <sup>pl</sup>	تروحو <u>tiruuHu</u>	روحو <u>ruuHu</u>

E. Participles and Verbal Nouns (maṣḍar)

Both participles and verbal nouns are as in Written Arabic.

20. Conjugating Forms II-X

In all of these conjugations the 'he' form of the imperfect is formed by prefixing a yi- to 'he' form of the perfect (that is, ya- or yu- are not used).

Derived forms (I, you<sup>m</sup>, you<sup>f</sup>, she, we, you<sup>pl</sup>, they) follow as in Written Arabic; thus we need deal here only with the perfect and imperfect of each verb in the 'he' form.

A. Form II

The perfect tense remains unchanged and for all but final weak roots, the imperfect is formed by simply adding its prefixes and suffixes (the 'imperfect' elements).

Strong	عرف ، يعرف	<u>9arraḡ</u> , <u>yi9arraḡ</u>	'to define'
Doubled	قرر ، يقرر	<u>qarrar</u> , <u>yiḡarrar</u>	'to decide'
Medial	دور ، يدور	<u>dawwar</u> , <u>yidawwar</u>	'to search'

The final weak roots end in ʿ a in the perfect and ʿ i in the imperfect.

Final	صلّى ، صلى	<u>ṣalla</u> , <u>yīṣalli</u>	'to pray'
	قصّى ، يقصّى	<u>qaḍḍa</u> , <u>yīqaḍḍi</u>	'to <del>judge</del> <sup>spare time</sup> '

### B. Form III

Exactly the same pattern as Form II. The Written Arabic vowel pattern aa-a is replaced by aa-i.

Strong	سافر ، سافر	<u>saafir</u> , <u>yisaafir</u>	'to travel'
Medial	حاول ، حاول	<u>Haawil</u> , <u>yiHaawil</u>	'to try'
Final	لاقى ، لاقى	<u>laaqa</u> , <u>yilaaqi</u>	'to find'

### C. Form IV

Rare in Egyptian. The perfect remains unchanged while the imperfect resembles the colloquial Form I.

اعلن ، اعلن	<u>'a9lan</u> , <u>yī9lin</u>	'to announce'
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### D. Forms V and VI

These two forms are expressed in Written Arabic by adding - ʿ it- but Egyptian instead adds - ʿ it-. Also the final vowel in all but final weak roots changes from a to i. Then the imperfect is expressed by adding the imperfect elements and changing nothing else, even in the final weak roots.

V-Strong	اتكلم ، تكلم	<u>itkallim</u> , <u>yitkallim</u>	'to talk'
VI-Medial	اتعاون ، تعاون	<u>it9aawin</u> , <u>yit9aawin</u>	'to cooperate'
V-Final	انعش ، عشاء	<u>it9ašša</u> , <u>yit9ašša</u>	'to eat dinner'
VI-Final	اساوى ، ساءى	<u>itsaawa</u> , <u>yitsaawa</u>	'to be equal'

E. Form VII

The perfect tense remains unchanged. Strong and final weak roots almost always take an i-i-i vowel pattern in the imperfect.

Strong	انكسر . ينكسر	<u>inkasar</u> , <u>yinkisir</u>	'to be broken'
Final	اقصى . يعصى	<u>inqaḍa</u> , <u>yinqiḍi</u>	'to <sup>apex (hme)</sup> be sentenced'

Double and medial weak roots retain the written pattern, with an a or aa in the imperfect.

Double	انحب . يحب	<u>inHabb</u> , <u>yinHabb</u>	'to be loved'
Medial	انهار . ينهار	<u>inhaar</u> , <u>yinhaar</u>	'to collapse'

F. Form VIII

Exactly the same pattern as in Form VII.

Strong	اشترك . يشارك	<u>ištarak</u> , <u>yištirik</u>	'to participate'
Double	احتل . يحتل	<u>iHtall</u> , <u>yiHtall</u>	'to occupy'
Medial	اغتال . يغتال	<u>iḡtaal</u> , <u>yīḡtaal</u>	'to assassinate'
Final	ابتدا . يبتدي	<u>ibtada</u> , <u>yibtidi</u>	'to begin'

One exception is

اشغل . يشغل	<u>ištayaḷ</u> , <u>yištayaḷ</u>	'to work'.
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G. Form IX

The perfect remains unchanged. The imperfect elements are added to form the imperfect.

Strong	احمر . يحمر	<u>iHmarr</u> , <u>yiHmarr</u>	'to become red'
Final	احلوا . يخلو	<u>iHlaww</u> , <u>yiHlaww</u>	'to become beautiful'

H. Form X

The perfect remains unchanged except that the final a changes to i in some verbs. Strong roots take the imperfect elements to form the imperfect, without further vowel changes.

Strong i-a-a      استثمر ، يستثمر      istasmār, yistasmir  
'to exploit'

Strong i-a-i      استعمل ، يستعمل      ista9mal, yista9mil  
'to use'

Double and final weak roots are always i-a-a in the perfect and either i-a-a or i-a-i in the imperfect, with the former more common:

Double i-a-a      استخف ، يستخف      istaxaff, yistaxaff  
'to scorn'

Double i-a-i      استقل ، يستقل      istaqall, yistaqill  
'to become independent'

Final i-a-a      استنى ، يستنى      istanna, yistanna  
'to wait'

Final i-a-i      استفتى ، يستفتى      istafta, yistafti  
'to seek an opinion'

Medial weak roots change from i-a-a in the perfect to i-a-i in the imperfect.

استفاد ، يستفيد      istafaad, yistafiid  
'to profit'

But note:      استراح ، يستريح      istaraaH, yistariyiH  
'to rest, relax'

21. Quadriliteral Roots

The perfect takes an a-i vowel in the perfect and the imperfect is formed by adding the imperfect elements.



Form I <sub>4</sub>	ترجم . يترجم	<u>targim</u> , <u>yitargim</u>	'to translate'
Form II <sub>4</sub>	تخلص . يتخلص	<u>taxalbas</u> , <u>yitaxalbas</u>	'to clown'

## 22. The Conditional

The conditional is expressed by إذا *iza*, إن *in*, or لو *law* 'if' and the perfect tense. Egyptian always uses the perfect verb in conditional sentences, even if the meaning is present or future time.

لو رحا . ان رحا . اذا رحا     law ruht, in ruht, iza ruht  
'if I went, had gone; go; were to go'

## 23. Additional Egyptian Features

### A. The Future

The future is expressed by Ha- prefixed to the verb (and not by sa- or sawfa).

حتكلم معه     Hatkallim ma9aah 'I will speak with him'  
حنشوف بكره ان شاء الله     Hansuuf bukra in šaa' 'allaah  
'We'll see tomorrow, I hope'

### B. The Habitual and Continuous Tense

-- bi- stresses habitual or continuous action in the present and is prefixed to imperfect verbs.

انا شرب فراره سره كل يوم     'ana bašrab qizaazit biira kull-i-yoom  
'I drink a bottle of beer every day'  
انا سرب دا الوقي     ana bašrab dilwaqti  
'I'm drinking now.'

- bi- may be used with nearly any present. It cannot be used with subjunctive clauses that would be introduced by an in Written Arabic.

ارحو انه يخلص الشغل arguu innu yixallaṣ aš-suyl

'I hope he will finish the work.'

لازم (ان) يخلص الشغل laazim (an) yixallaṣ aš-šuy1

'He must finish the work.'

### C. Irregular Verbs

(1) gih 'to come'

Perfect:	جيب <u>geet</u>	جينا <u>geena</u>
	جيت <u>geet</u>	جيتو <u>geetu</u>
	جيتي <u>geeti</u>	
	جه <u>gih</u>	جم <u>gum</u>
	حبا <u>gayit</u>	
Imperfect:	آجي <u>aagi</u>	سجو <u>niigu</u>
	نيجي <u>tiigi</u>	سجو <u>tiigu</u>
	تجي <u>tiigi</u>	
	سيجي <u>yiigi</u>	سجو <u>yiigu</u>
	تيجي <u>tiigi</u>	
Imperative:	عالى <u>ta9aala</u>	تعالو <u>ta9aalu</u>
	تعالى <u>ta9aali</u>	
Active Participle:	جاي <u>gayy</u>	

Before suffixes, gih becomes gaa- جا

ما جاش magaaš 'he didn't come'

and gum becomes guu- حو

حولى امبارح guuli imbaariH  
'they came to me yesterday'

(2) axad 'to take' اخذ

Perfect: خذت xadt خذنا xadna

خذت xadt خذتو xadtu  
خذتى xadti

خذ xad خذو xadu  
خذت xadit

Imperfect: آخذ aaxud ناخذو naxdu

تاخذ taaxud تاخذو taxdu  
تاخذى taxdi

ياخذ yaaxud ياخذو yaxdu  
ياخذى taaxud

Imperative: حد xud حدو xudu  
حدي xudi

Active Participle: واحد waaxud

(3) اكل akal 'to eat' in the imperfect

Imperfect:	آكل <u>aakil</u>	كلو <u>naklu</u>
	تاكل <u>taakil</u>	تكلو <u>taklu</u>
	تكلي <u>takli</u>	
	ياكل <u>yaakil</u>	يكلو <u>yaklu</u>
	تاكل <u>taakil</u>	

(4) اَدّ add 'to give' in the 3rd person singular perfect is adda (rather than add). The imperfect and imperative are also irregular.

Imperfect:	اَدّي <u>addi</u>	نَوْدُو <u>nu'addu</u>
	تَوْدِي <u>tu'addi</u>	تَوْدُو <u>tu'addu</u>
	تَوْدِي <u>tu'addi</u>	
	يَوْدِي <u>yu'addi</u>	يَوْدُو <u>yu'addu</u>
	تَوْدِي <u>tu'addi</u>	
Imperative:	اَدّي <u>iddi</u>	اَدُو <u>iddu</u>
	اَدِي <u>iddi</u>	

## CHAPTER SIX

PREPOSITIONS AND CONJUNCTIONS24. PrepositionsA. Special Egyptian Prepositions

(1) عشان *9ašaan* or علشان *9alašaan* 'because, on account of, for' (these are used interchangeably with no difference in meaning)

شربا عشان كا عطشس *širibna 9ašaan kunna 9aṭšaniin*  
'We drank because we were thirsty.'

اشتريتها علشانك انت *ištaritha 9alašanik inti*  
'I bought it for you.'

(2) فيه *fiih* 'there is'

فيه كل حاجة في مصر *fiih kull-i-haaga fii maṣr*  
'There is everything in Cairo.'

(3) اصل *aṣl* 'because' (with pronoun suffix)

نمت اقلي كنت عيان *nimt aṣli kunt-i- ta9baan*  
'I slept because I was tired.'

سام امله كان عيان *naam aṣlu kaan ta9baan*  
'He slept because he was tired.'

(4) بدل badal 'instead of' (replaces بدلا badalan min in Written Arabic)

ادى ثلاثه كيلو بدل ايسين iddini talata kilu badal itneen  
'Give me three kilos instead of two.'

If used with a verb, it takes ما ma:

بدلما بروح badal-ma yiruuH 'instead of going'

(5) عند is unchanged from Written Arabic except that it is pronounced 9and (instead of 9ind).

#### B. Written Arabic Terms Not Used in Egyptian

(1) الى ilaa 'to' is replaced by لي li-.

(2) <sup>لکي</sup> ka- and <sup>لکي</sup> likay 'so, as to, in order to' are replaced by <sup>عشان</sup> 9ašaan or <sup>عشان</sup> 9alašaan.

(3) دون duun 'without' is replaced by من غير min yeer.

(4) لدى lada 'at, by, in front of' is replaced by عند 9and.

(5) لعللى la9alla and عسى 9asaa 'maybe, perhaps' are replaced by يمكن yimkin.

### 25. Conjunctions

#### A. Special Egyptian Conjunctions

(1) يبغي yibqa (at the beginning of a phrase) or بغي baga (at the end of a phrase) 'so, now, well then.' This word often has no real meaning but indicates the beginning or end of a thought.

يبنى ، حنعمل انه ؟ yibqa, Hani9mil 'eeh? 'So, what will we do?'  
 وعدين . انه يبنى ؟ wa-ba9deen, 'eeh baqa? 'And after that, what?'

(2) kamaan 'also, another'

اثنين كمان كيلو iddiini kamaan kiilu 'Give me another kilo.'

انا محتاج وكمان هو محتاج لفلوس ana miHtaag wa-kamaan huwwa  
miHtaag li-filuus

'I need and he also needs some money.'

(3) barḡu 'as well'

انا محتاج له برصو ana miHtaag luh barḡu 'I need him as well.'

(4) bass 'but'

هو قال كذا بس انا ما صدقوش huwwa qaal kida bass ana maa  
saddaqtuus

'He said so, but I didn't believe him.'

(5) lawla 'if not' is pronounced luula in Egyptian.

#### B. Written Arabic Terms Not Used in Egyptian

(1) thumma 'then' and بعد ذلك ba9d dhaalika 'after that, then' are both replaced by بعدين ba9deen.

(2) 'ا' a and هل hal, the interrogative signs, are not used in Egyptian, replaced rather by raising the voice in a questioning way, as in English.

(3) بل bal 'but rather'

26. Possession

9and, li, and ma9a all indicate possession, but with different implications.

عنده	<u>9andu</u>	'he owns'
له	<u>luh</u>	'he is owed'
معه	<u>ma9aah</u>	'he has (with him, on him)

For example:

عندي عشرين ولد	<u>9andi 9ašriin walad</u>	'I have 20 children.'
عده لي مية جنيه	<u>9andu liiya miit gineh</u>	'He owes me 100 pounds.'
فيه معك فكة؟	<u>fiih ma9aak fakka?</u>	'Do you have any change on you?'

For other ways of expressing the possessive, see section 8.



## CHAPTER SEVEN

## ADVERBS

## 27. Adverbs of Time

This list, and the following ones in this chapter, contains peculiarly colloquial adverbs.

- |      |              |                         |                        |
|------|--------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| (1)  | دا الوقتى    | <u>dilwaqti</u>         | 'now'                  |
| (2)  | بعدين        | <u>ba9deen</u>          | 'afterwards'           |
| (3)  | امبارح       | <u>imbaariH</u>         | 'yesterday'            |
| (4)  | اول امبارح   | <u>awwal imbaariH</u>   | 'day before yesterday' |
| (5)  | الشهار دا    | <u>en-nahaar da</u>     | 'today'                |
| (6)  | بكرة         | <u>bukra</u>            | 'tomorrow'             |
| (7)  | بعد بكرة     | <u>ba9d-i-bukra</u>     | 'day after tomorrow'   |
| (8)  | بدرى         | <u>badri</u>            | 'early'                |
| (9)  | وخرى . متأخر | <u>waxri, mit'axxar</u> | 'late'                 |
| (10) | لسه          | <u>lissa</u>            | 'still; not yet'       |
- Ex. هو لسه ما حاش huwwa lissa magaas  
'He still hasn't come.'
- |      |             |                        |            |
|------|-------------|------------------------|------------|
| (11) | دائما . ملى | <u>dayman, tamalli</u> | 'always'   |
| (12) | امى         | <u>imta</u>            | 'when'     |
| (13) | زما         | <u>zamaan+pronoun</u>  | 'about to' |
- Ex. هو زما جاى huwwa zamaanu gayy 'He is about to come.'

## 28. Adverbs of Place

- |     |      |               |                   |
|-----|------|---------------|-------------------|
| (1) | فى   | <u>feen</u>   | 'where'           |
| (2) | من   | <u>mineen</u> | 'from where'      |
| (3) | برا  | <u>barra</u>  | 'outside'         |
| (4) | جوا  | <u>guwwa</u>  | 'inside'          |
| (5) | جانب | <u>gamb</u>   | 'next to, beside' |

## 29. Adverbs of Manner

- (1) ايوة، آه aywa, aah 'yes'
- (2) نعم، اعندم na9am, efendim 'yes?', 'pardon?'
- (3) امال ummaal 'certainly, indeed; so then'
- Ex. حتروح بكرة؟ امال HatruuH bukra? ummaal  
'Will you go tomorrow? Certainly.'  
امال انه؟ ummaal eeh? 'So what then?'
- (4) قوى qawi 'very'
- (5) خالص xaaliş 'very'
- (6) خلاص xalaaş 'enough, finished'
- Ex. خلاص في xalaaş baqa  
'Enough then; I'm finished with it.'
- (7) شوية şwayya + iqaafa 'a little (of)'
- Ex. اكلت شوية لحمه akalt şwayyit laHma  
'I ate a little bit of meat.'
- (8) حة Habba + iqaafa 'a little (of)'
- (9) بسويس bi-şweeş 'slowly; quietly'
- (10) بس bass 'only; enough'
- Ex. هي عاورة دي بس hiyya 9awza di bass  
'She wants this only.'  
بس كدا bass-i-kida 'That's enough.'
- (11) قد ايه qadd-i-'eeh? 'how much, how many?'
- Ex. في لك قدايه في مصر؟ baqa lak qadd-i-'eeh fii maşr?  
'How long have you been in Cairo?'
- قدانه بطخ؟ qadd-i-'eeh baṭṭiix?  
'How much watermelon?'
- بينه قدايه كسر beetu qadd-i-'eeh kabiir  
'His house is so big!'
- (12) كدا kida 'so, thus'

- (13) كذا kaza '(just) so many'  
 Ex. حصل كذا كذا مرة Haṣal kida kaza marra  
 'It's happened like this so many times.'
- (14) زاي zayy 'as, like'  
 Ex. زاي كذا zayy-i-kida 'like this'  
 زاي بعض zayy-i-ba9d  
 'it's all the same; it doesn't matter'
- (15) ازاي izzayy 'how'  
 Ex. ازايك؟ izzayyak? 'How are you?'
- (16) بلاش balaas 'forget it!'  
 Ex. يا ريس بلاش الشربة ya rayyis, balaas aš-šurba  
 'Waiter, forget the drink!'
- (17) معلش ma9leeš 'never mind; it doesn't matter;  
 excuse me'
- (18) يا ترا ya tara 'I wonder'  
 Ex. يا ترا حتيحي؟ ya tara Hatigi?  
 'I wonder, will she come?'
- (19) مش . ما ... ش miš, ma...š 'not'  
 For examples, see chapter 8.

## CHAPTER EIGHT

## NEGATIONS

Egyptian has one sign of negation, the two letters miim م šiin ش standing together as the word miš (or muš) or apart, ma ما as a prefix and -š ش as a suffix. This negative can negate not only verbs and participles, but also pronouns, prepositions, and adjectives.

## 30. Negations of Verbs

(1) -- bi- and -- Ha- forms are negated with miš مش

مش بروح كل يوم miš baruuH kull-i-yoom

'I don't go every day.'

مش حتنامو الليلة دي miš Hatnaamu al-leela di

'You won't sleep tonight.'

(2) All other forms are negated by ma...š ما...ش.

Perfect, imperfect, and imperative examples follow:

ما روجتش الاهرام maruHtiš al-'ahraam

'I haven't been to the pyramids.'

ما أعرفش دا ma'a9rafš'i-da 'I don't know this.'

ما تخفش matxafš abadan

'Don't be afraid at all!'

Also, -- bi- can be negated by ma...š ما...ش

ما شربش سحار mabašrabš sagaayir 'I don't smoke.'

Imperatives can also be negated with balaas بلاش

ما تمشيش ، بلاش مشى matimšiiš, balaas timši

'Don't go!'

ما ma without ش--š negates a perfect verb when it follows عمر 9umr and a pronoun suffix, making for a very emphatic negative:

عمري ما سمعت الحكاية دي 9umri masimi9t al-Hikaaya di

'I've never in my life heard this story.'

عمره ما شاف كذا 9umru mašaaf kida

'He's never seen this.'

(3) When ما...ش ma...š negates a verb with a pronoun suffix, the ش--š comes after the pronoun suffix:

ما شفتكش mašuftakš 'I didn't see you.'

When the verb ends in two consonants, following the pattern of avoiding more than two consonants together, an -i- is inserted before the ش--š:

ما سالتش masa'altiš 'You<sup>m</sup> didn't ask.'

When the verb or its suffix ends in a vowel, the vowel is lengthened and stressed before the ش--š. Note that كم--kum changes to كو--kuu before the negative ش--š:

ما سالتيش	<u>masa'altiiš</u>	'You <sup>f</sup> didn't ask.'
ما سألوش	<u>masa'aluúš</u>	'They didn't ask.'
ما سألهاش	<u>masa'aluhaáš</u>	'They didn't ask her.'
ما سالتكيش	<u>masa'altikiíš</u>	'I didn't ask you <sup>f</sup> .'
ما سالتكوش	<u>masa'altukuúš</u>	'I didn't ask you <sup>pl</sup> .'

The ش--š may sometimes follow even prepositions with the direct object:

ما جتتهلكش magibtuhulakš  
'I didn't bring it to you<sup>m</sup>.'

## 31. Negations of Participles

مش miš negates all participles used as verbs:

مش عاوز اي حاجة miš 9aawiz ayi Haaga  
 'I don't want anything.'  
 مش مسافرين سينا miš misafiriin siina  
 'We aren't going to Sinai.'

Nominal sentences are negated by مش miš (see section 34).

## 32. Negations of Pronouns

Negating a pronoun expresses emphasis or definiteness. It is done either with مش miš or ما...ش ma...š:

مش انا، مانيش miš ana, maniiš  
 مش انتا، ماانتاش miš inta, mantaas  
 مش انتي، ماانتش miš inti, mantiis  
 مش هو، ماهواش miš huwwa, mahuwwaas  
 مش هي، ماهاش miš hiyya, mahiyyaas  
 مش احنا، مااحنناش miš ihna, maHnaas  
 مش انتو، ماانتوش miš intu, mantuus  
 مش هم، ماهماش miš humma, mahummaas

Note the following:

ماهواش هنا mahuwwaas hina 'He's not here.'

حد Had 'one, someone' can also be negated:

ماحدش سرّد maHaddiṣ birudd 'No one answers.'

### 33. Negations of Prepositions

The following prepositions can be negated when followed by pronoun suffixes. Here they are given with the 3.m.sg. suffixes:

(1)	فيه ، مافيش	<u>fiih</u> , <u>mafiiš</u>	'there is not'
Ex.	مافيش فائدة	<u>mafiiš fayda</u>	'There is no use.'
(2)	عنده ، ماعندوش	<u>9andu</u> , <u>ma9anduus</u>	'he hasn't'
	له ، مالوس	<u>luh</u> , <u>maluus</u>	'he hasn't owed to him'
	معاه ، مامعاش	<u>ma9aah</u> , <u>mama9aaš</u>	'he doesn't have with him'
(3)	تحتيه ، ماحبوش	<u>taHtu</u> , <u>mataHtuus</u>	'not below him'
	جميه ، ماحبوش	<u>gambu</u> , <u>magambuus</u>	'not beside him'
	فوقه ، مافوقوش	<u>fooqu</u> , <u>mafooquus</u>	'not above him'
Ex.	مافوقناش حد	<u>mafoqnaas</u> <u>Had</u>	'No one (lives on the floor) above us'

### 34. Negations of Adjectives

miš negates predicate adjectives in nominal sentences.

زوحى مش طال	<u>zoogi miš baṭṭaal</u>
'My husband isn't bad.'	
رايك مش مصوط	<u>rayyik miš maḥbuuṭ</u>
'Your <sup>f</sup> opinion is wrong.'	

## CHAPTER NINE

## VOCABULARY

The following list contains words in Egyptian which have slight or no correspondence to their Written Arabic equivalents. Only a few words noted in Wehr's Dictionary of Modern Written Arabic are included. Numbers are omitted; plurals are in parentheses; verbs are in the 3.m.sg. perfect form.

absolutely	خالص	xaaliṣ
afterwards	بعدن	ba9deen
again	ثانى	taani
against	صد	ḡidd
ago	من مدة	min mudda
ago (a little while ago)	قبل شوية	qabl-i-šwayya
ago (long ago)	من زمان	min zamaan
alike	زاي بعد	zayy-i-ba9d
all right	طيب	ṭayyib
along, straight	على طول	9ala ṭuul
already	من قبل	min qabl
also	برصو، كمان	barḡu, kamaan
always	دايما، تملى	dayman, tamalli
another	واحد ثانى، كمان	waaHid taani, kamaan
any	أى	ayyi
anyhow	على كل حال	9ala kull-i Haal
as well, also	برصو	barḡu
as, like	زاي	zayy
at, by	عد	9and
bad	وحش	wiHiš
bakhsheesh	حسنى	baxšiiš
balcony	لكونة	balkuuna
because	عشان، علشان، امل -	9ašaan, 9alašaan, ašl-
to become	بقي	baqa
belonging to	بيع، ساعة، سوع	bitaa9, bitaa9it, bituu9
beside	جانب	gamb
bit	حبة	Hitta
boot	حرمة (حرم)	gezma (gezam)
bottle	مرارة	qizaaza
boy	واد، ولد	waad, walad



bravo	برافو	<i>braafu</i>
to bring	حاب	<i>gaab</i>
but	سي	<i>bass</i>
butler	سفرحي	<i>sufragi</i>
cab, taxi	تكسي (سياب)	<i>taks(i) (-yaat)</i>
Cairo	مصر	<i>maşr</i>
card	كرتة (كرونة)	<i>karta (kuruuta)</i>
to carry (away)	شال	<i>şaal</i>
certainly	امال	<i>ummaal</i>
to come	حه	<i>gih</i>
come!	تعالى	<i>ta9aala</i>
come on!	يللي	<i>yalla</i>
to confuse	لحيط	<i>laxbaṭ</i>
daily	يومياتي	<i>yomaati</i>
to do a favor	عمل معروف	<i>9amal ma9ruuf</i>
don't do that!	اوعى	<i>iw9a</i>
drinking glass	كباية	<i>kubbaaya</i>
early	سدرى	<i>badri</i>
Egypt	مصر	<i>maşr</i>
elevator	اسانسير	<i>asansiir</i>
else	كمان، شاي، غير كدا	<i>kamaan, taani, yeer kida</i>
enough	سي	<i>bass</i>
enough then!	خلاص	<i>xalaaş</i>
excellent!	عال	<i>9aal</i>
face	وش	<i>wiṣṣ</i>
first	اولاي	<i>awwalaani</i>
for	عشان، علشان	<i>9aṣaan, 9alaṣaan</i>
for free	سلاش	<i>bi-balaas</i>
foreigner (mostly for Westerners)	مواجة (ان)	<i>xawaaga (-aat)</i>
forget it!	سلاش	<i>balaas</i>
from where?	مين	<i>mineen</i>
girl	بنت، بنت	<i>bit, bint</i>
to give	أدي	<i>'adda</i>
give!	حيب، هات	<i>giib, haat</i>
glass (material)	فراز	<i>qizaaz</i>
to go	راح	<i>raaH</i>
good	كويس، عال	<i>kwayyis, 9aal</i>
good-bye	سعيدة	<i>sa9iida</i>
gratis	بلاش	<i>bi-balaas</i>
half	نص	<i>nuṣṣ</i>
ham	حميون	<i>jambuun</i>
here	هنا	<i>hina</i>
here is	اهو، اهي، اهم	<i>ahu, ahi, ahum</i>
hotel	لكندا	<i>lukanda</i>
how?	ازاي	<i>izzayy?</i>

how many, how much?	قد انه	<i>gadd-i-'eeh?</i>
husband	جور	<i>gooz</i>
ill	عان	<i>9ayyaan</i>
indeed	امال	<i>ummaal</i>
immer	حوانى	<i>guwwaani</i>
inside	جوا	<i>guwwa</i>
instead of	بدل	<i>badal</i>
it's all the same!	راي بعد	<i>zayy-i-ba9d</i>
lady	سهايم	<i>sitt-i-haanim</i>
lamp	اسازره	<i>abazhura</i>
last	اخراى	<i>axiraanu</i>
late	واخرى ، متأخر	<i>waxri, mit'axxar</i>
later, then	بعدين	<i>ba9deen</i>
to leave (s.th.)	ساب	<i>saab</i>
like, as	زاي	<i>zayy</i>
like this	كدا	<i>kida</i>
little	فليل	<i>qulayyil</i>
little bit	شوية ، حة	<i>swayya, Habba</i>
to look	نص	<i>başş</i>
lower	تحناسى	<i>taHtaani</i>
man	راجل (رجالة)	<i>raagil (riggaala)</i>
maybe	يمكى	<i>yimkin</i>
menu	لسة اكل	<i>listit al-akl</i>
Miss	مرمريل	<i>mezmezeel</i>
money	فلوس	<i>filuus</i>
mouth	سى	<i>buqq</i>
Mr. (to a Westerner)	مسر	<i>mistar</i>
Mrs.	سا (ا ب) ، مدام	<i>sitt (-aat), madaam</i>
narghile	حورة	<i>gooza</i>
never mind!	معلش	<i>ma9leeš</i>
newspaper	جربال ، جربان (جرائل ، جراسن)	<i>gurnaal, gurnaan</i> ( <i>garaniil, garaniin</i> )
next to	حمب	<i>gamb</i>
nice	كويس	<i>kwayyis</i>
nightly	ليلالى	<i>lelaati</i>
no	لا	<i>la'(a)</i>
nobody, no one	ماحدس ، ولا حد ، ولا واحد	<i>maHaddiř, wala Hadd</i>
noise	دوشة ، ربة	<i>wala waHid</i>
nose	مناخير	<i>dawša, zeeṭa</i>
not	من	<i>manaxiir</i>
nothing	ولا حاجة	<i>miř</i> <i>wala Haaga</i>

not yet	لسه	<i>lissa</i>
now	دا الوقت	<i>dilwaḡti</i>
occasionally	احيانا	<i>'aHyaanan</i>
okay	طيب، ماشي	<i>ṭayyib, maaši</i>
only	بس	<i>bass</i>
orange	برتقال، برتقال	<i>burtuḡaal, burtuḡaan</i>
outer	براني	<i>barraani</i>
outside	بر	<i>barra</i>
pardon me?	عف، افندم	<i>naḡam? efendim?</i>
peach	خوخة	<i>xuuxa</i>
perhaps, I wonder if	يا سارة	<i>ya tara</i>
piece, bit	حته	<i>Hitta</i>
please	ورحمتك	<i>wa-Hayaatak</i>
to push	رف	<i>zaḡḡ</i>
to put (away)	شال	<i>šaal</i>
quietly	سوتش	<i>bi-šweeš</i>
receipt	فتورة	<i>faṭuura</i>
robe (worn by men)	جلالسه	<i>ḡallabiya</i>
room	اوضة	<i>oḡa</i>
shall, will (future)	راح	<i>raaH</i>
sheet; wrap worn by women	ملاية	<i>milaaya</i>
shoe	جرمة (حرم)	<i>ḡazma (ḡizam)</i>
shoemaker	جرمحي	<i>ḡazmaḡi</i>
short	فصير	<i>ḡuṣayyir</i>
sick	عبان	<i>ḡayyaan</i>
slowly	سوس	<i>bi-šweeš</i>
small	صغير	<i>ṣuṣayyar</i>
to smoke	شرب، دخن	<i>šarab, daxxan</i>
so? then?	امال	<i>'ummaal?</i>
so, then	سقى، سقى	<i>baḡa, yibḡa</i>
so many	كدا	<i>kaza</i>
sometimes	احيانا	<i>'aHyaanan</i>
so what?	معلش	<i>maḡleeš</i>
still, not yet	لسه	<i>lissa</i>
straight	على طول	<i>ḡala ṭuul</i>
table	ترابيزة	<i>tarabeeza</i>
to take	وخذ	<i>waxad</i>
to take off	شال	<i>šaal</i>
taxi	تكسي (- سات)	<i>taks(i) (-yaat)</i>
that (subjunctive clause)	ان	<i>in</i>
that (demonstrative pronoun)	دا، دي	<i>da (m.), di (f.)</i>
that which	اللي	<i>illi</i>
then, later	بعدس	<i>baḡdeen</i>
then, so	امال، سقى، سقى	<i>'ummaal; baḡa, yibḡa</i>
there	هناك	<i>hinaak</i>

there is	فيه	fiih
these	دول ، دى	dol, di
thing	حاجه	Haaga
this	دا ، دى	da (m.), di (f.)
those	دول ، دى	dol, di
today	السهاردا	en-nahaar da
tomorrow	بكرة	bukra
upper	موقانى	foqaani
usually	تملى	tamalli
very	خالص ، قوي	xaaliṣ, qawi
to wait	اسنى	istanna
waiter (in a restaurant)	ريس ، حرسون	rayyis, garsun
to want	عاز ، عاور	9aayiz, 9aawiz
water	مى	mayya
we	احنا	iHna
what?	اشه؟	'eeh?
when?	امى؟	imta?
where?	فسن؟	feen?
which (relative pronoun)	الى	illi
who (relative pronoun)	اللى	illi
who?	مى؟	miin?
why?	ليه؟	leeh?
wife	جوزه	goza
woman	س	sitt
yes	اوه ، آه	'aywa, aah
yesterday	امساح	imbaariH
you	انت ، انتو	'inta (m.), 'inti (f.) 'intu (pl.)